Regional T.V. Services in States

1767. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether regional T.V. service has been introduced in some States recently;

(b) if so, the features of the service;

(c) whether the regional T.V. service will benefit the States in North Eastern region;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to provide similar regional T.V. service in other States of the country in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRUA VYAS): (a) and(b). Yes, Sir. Satellite-derived regional TV service was introduced in the States of Orissa and West Bengal recently so as to enable all the TV transmitters in these States to relay regional service programmes of Doordarshan Kendras at Cuttack and Calcutta respectively.

(c) and (d). Whereas Assamese news bulletin for a duration of 15 minutes is at present relayed via satellite by all the TV transmitters in Assam, satellite-derived regional service for relay of regional programmes in the States of North Eastern region is planned to be introduced during VIII Plan subject to availability of requisite space segment and adequate resources for the purpose.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. Regional Service is envisaged to be provided in other States depending upon future availability of adequate space segment and allocation of necessary funds by the Planning Commission.

Privatisation of Telecom Network

1768. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN:
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to privatise the Telecom Network in the Metropolitan Regions; and

(b) if so, the details of the policy contemplated?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Scarcity of Non-Commercial Fuels

1769. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scientific estimates exist of the demand for cooking fuel in domestic sector, and has any policy been laid down for its production and distribution, particularly in the context of shortage of wood and environmental concerns;

(b) whether any estimates exist of the fuel consumption of cowdung, fire-wood, charcoal, and other vegetable Wastes in the rural areas;

(c) whether there is an acute scarcity of these non-commercial fuels used in the domestic sector; and